

When present, the quality of the water in the Mojave River has been degraded by pollution. The State of California has reported that the Mojave River is use-impaired throughout much of its length due to contamination (EPA 2000a).

The Colorado River is located east of Blythe, California, and the existing pipeline crosses the river at approximately MP 302.8 to MP 302.9. There are no Project activities in the vicinity of the Colorado River. The river drains an area of 244,000 square miles and discharges into the Gulf of California in Mexico (EPA 2001). Flows on the river are controlled by a series of dams. The closest upstream dam is the Palo Verde Dam, a few miles north of where the pipeline crosses the river. For the period from 1988 to 1999, flow downstream of the dam averaged about 6,000 cfs, with seasonal variations from 1,000 cfs in winter to commonly over 12,000 cfs in May and June—the peak runoff period for the Colorado River basin (USGS 2001). The controlled flows on the river generally preclude flooding except during periods of very high runoff from the Colorado River watershed. Salinity is an important water quality problem on the lower Colorado River (EPA 2001).

Field surveys identified no perennial waterbodies within or immediately adjacent to the proposed construction locations. No waterbodies greater than 100 feet wide would be crossed.

Waterbody crossings affected by construction are limited to dry washes. ~~There are, therefore, no applicable State water quality or beneficial use classifications. The Water Quality Control Plan for Lahontan Region (Basin Plan) contains beneficial use designations for state waters including ephemeral streams. Beneficial uses would not be impaired by this Project since construction would be completed during the dry season.~~ The locations of washes are presented on the ROW resource maps in Appendix A. Table 4.5-1 summarizes the locations and characteristics of drainages within proposed construction locations on Line 1903.

The Cadiz Lateral crosses a total of ten jurisdictional waters of the US. These waters are intermittent channels varying in width from 10 feet to 40 feet. It should be noted that along the northern portion of the Cadiz Lateral, there are several areas that receive overland sheet flow during precipitation events. However, these areas do not exhibit definable channels or bed and bank